

What is claimed is;

1. An electronic image-capturing apparatus comprising:
an image-capturing element that captures an image of a
subject and generates electronic image information;

5 a recording device that records the electronic image
information that has been generated in a recording medium;
a registration device that registers inherent information
with respect to a registrant;

10 an information detection device that detects inherent
information with respect to a user of the electronic
image-capturing apparatus;

15 an information verification device that references the
inherent information with respect to the user detected by said
information detection device with the inherent information
registered in said registration device; and

20 a control device that allows an image-capturing operation
to be performed on the electronic image-capturing apparatus
if it is decided by said information verification device that
the two sets of inherent information match.

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Sub A 2. An electronic image-capturing apparatus according to
claim 1, further comprising:

25 a digital watermarking device that adds information
related to the inherent information detected by said
information detection device to the electronic image

information that has been generated as a digital watermark.

3. An electronic image-capturing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

5 a power control device having a switch to be set at a recording position, a reproduction position or an OFF position, that controls power ON/OFF, wherein:

10 said control device allows an image-capturing operation to be performed on the electronic image-capturing apparatus without requiring said information verification device to operate as long as said switch remains at said recording position after said information verification device decides that the two sets of inherent information match when said switch is at said recording position.

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4. An image-capturing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

20 said registration device enables additional registration of information inherent to another registrant via said information detection device if said information verification device detects an previously registered registrant.

25 5. An electronic image-capturing apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising;

a selection device that selects a limited user mode that

limits users of the electronic image-capturing apparatus or an unlimited mode that does not impose any restrictions on users of the electronic image-capturing apparatus, wherein;

said control device implements control to ensure that only
5 the registrant for whom the two sets of inherent information
have been verified to match by said information verification
device is allowed to operate said selection device.

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6. An electronic image-capturing apparatus according to
10 claim 1, wherein:

the inherent information is registrant's fingerprint
information; and

said information detection device is constituted of a
sensor that detects fingerprint information.

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7. An electronic image-capturing apparatus according to
claim 6, further comprising:

a grip used by the user to hold the electronic image-
capturing apparatus while capturing an image of a subject,
20 wherein

said sensor is provided at a position at which a finger
of the user is naturally placed when the user holds said grip.

8. An electronic image-capturing apparatus according to
25 claim 1, further comprising:

a registration control device that deactivates said information verification device if it is decided that information with respect to user detected by said information detection device is not registered at all in said registration device, and registers said inherent information detected by said information detection device in said registration device.

9. An electronic image-capturing apparatus according to
claim 8, wherein:

10 said registration control device prohibits updating of
contents of information registered in said registration device
if it is decided that there is at least one set of inherent
information registered in said registration device as long as
said information verification device does not decide that two
15 sets of inherent information match.

10. An electronic image-capturing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein:

20 said control device allows a reproduction operation
regardless of results of verification performed by said
information verification device when the electronic image
information recorded in said recording medium is reproduced.